

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Installation for loading a loading space (1) with piece goods (2), which preferably have an at least partly deformable piece good surface, the installation comprising: having a feed device (3) on which the piece goods (2) can be singly fed, ~~as well as;~~ a transfer device (4) to which the piece goods (2) can be transferred from the feed device (3) and by means of which the piece goods (2) can be brought into the interior of the loading space (1); ~~characterized in that;~~ at least one shaping means (14) ~~is provided~~ through which the piece goods (2) can be brought into a predeterminable shape or orientation, ~~that wherein~~ the transfer device (4) transfers the piece goods (2), whilst maintaining ~~their~~ a shape of the piece goods previously given by the shaping means (14), individually or groupwise with the aid of an in each case, a horizontally movable loading means into the interior of the loading space (1) which is open on at least ~~open on~~ one side, and ~~that wherein~~ a separating unit (23) is provided; which separates the piece goods (2) from the loading means, accompanied by the retraction thereof, and deposits ~~the~~ said piece goods in the loading space.

2. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the loading means are constructed as shaping means (14).

3. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer device (4) provides a vertically adjustable conveyor (6) on which the ~~at least one~~ loading means (14) with the piece goods (2) is linearly movable in a substantially

horizontal conveying direction into the interior of the loading space (1) open on at least one side.

4. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the complete loading space is located on a lifting table.

5. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the separating unit (23) can be brought into engagement with at least one piece good (2) of the piece goods (2) located within a loading means (14) and ~~that~~ wherein the ~~at least one~~ loading means (14) is linearly movable counter to the conveying direction relative to the separating unit (23).

6. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feed device (3) is constructed at least zonally as a motor-driven linear conveyor (7) and has an end section constructed as an accumulating conveyor (8).

7. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the accumulating conveyor (8) has a stop face (9) oriented transversely to the conveying direction of the feed device.

8. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the accumulating conveyor (8) provides a sliding or rolling plane for the piece goods (2), which is flush or lowered with respect to the bearing surface of the linear conveyor (7).

9. (Currently Amended) Installation according to one of the ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transfer device (12) is provided on which the piece goods (2) fed on the feed device (3) are individually or groupwise transferred into, in each case, one loading means (14).

10. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein if the piece goods are to be reoriented the transfer device (12) has a ~~fork-like~~ forklike construction and bilaterally at least partly encloses the piece goods (2) on the accumulating conveyor (8) and by a tilting process and/or a translatory process transfers same into a loading means (14).

11. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein there is a making ready unit (16) for empty loading means (14), which cyclically moves forward empty loading means (14) and orients the same with respect to the transfer device (12).

12. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 11 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the loading means (14) are constructed in the form of a U-shaped

longitudinal profile with at least one open front side or in plate form.

13. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the U-shaped longitudinal profile has two spaced longitudinal profile arms with a clearly defined mutual spacing (15).

14. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the spacing between the two longitudinal profile arms is such that a piece good (2) located within the loading means (14) is given a mechanical pressure on its surface by the two longitudinal profile arms and ~~that~~ wherein the loading means (14) have a length corresponding to the length of the accumulating conveyor (8).

15. (Currently Amended) Installation according to one of the ~~claims~~ claim 4 to 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer device (4) provides a loading unit (5), which is directly juxtaposed with ~~the~~ a vertically adjustable conveyor (6) and provides at least two vertically superimposed working planes (19, 22) and ~~that~~ wherein a set of the working planes (19, 22) in each case ~~have~~ has a cyclically operatable conveyor system (21) for loading or unloading the working planes (19, 22) with loading means (14) which are empty or filled with piece goods (2).

16. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 8 to 15,

characterized in that wherein a plurality of loading means (14) filled with piece goods (2) can be transferred from the first working plane (19) of the loading unit (5) to the vertically adjustable conveyor (6), that wherein the loading means are arranged in parallel, juxtaposed manner in the conveying direction, that wherein the total width of all the juxtaposed loading means (14) is the same or slightly smaller than the loading space width and that wherein in each case the length of the loading means is slightly smaller than the length of the loading space.

17. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 16, characterized in that wherein the vertically adjustable conveyor (6) has at least one sensor system for detecting an actual fill level of the loading space (1) filled with piece goods and that wherein a control unit is provided which vertically matches the conveyor to the actual fill level prior to the transfer of the piece goods into the loading space.

18. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 17, characterized in that wherein the separating unit (23) is connected to the vertically adjustable conveyor (6) and has holding means, which separates the piece goods from the loading means counter to the conveying direction during the movement of the conveyor.

19. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the separating unit (23) is constructed like a rake and its prongs constructed as holding means can be lowered within the loading means.

20. (Currently Amended) Installation according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 19, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the piece goods are sacks filled with bulk material such as cereals, sugar or sand.

21. (Currently Amended) Method for loading a loading space with piece goods, which preferably ~~has~~ have an at least partly deformable piece good surface and, which ~~can be~~ are individually fed by means of a feed device and transferred to a transfer device, through which the piece goods ~~can be~~ are brought into the interior of the loading space, ~~characterized by the~~ following method comprising the steps:

- feeding in the piece goods in an area located outside the loading space,
- shaping the piece goods in either individual or ~~groupwise combined piece goods~~ grouped form by the action of at least one external force on the piece goods,
- transferring ~~[[of]]~~ the piece goods to the transfer unit and horizontally introduction of introducing the piece goods into the loading space, whilst ~~retaining~~ maintaining the shape of the piece goods by means of at least one loading means and
- depositing the piece goods within the loading space by separating the piece goods from the loading means using a separating unit.

22. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the shaping of the piece goods takes place by mutual sliding together of the piece goods within an accumulating conveyor or by means of a handling device directly through depositing in the

shaping means, so that the piece goods are compressed at least pairwise in the conveying
5 direction of the feed unit.

23. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
the piece goods are shoved together along a piece good row and in this shoved together state
are transferred into a shaping means, where the piece goods are compressed along at least one
axis oriented perpendicular to the extension of the piece good row or are brought directly up
5 to the shaping element in individual manner by a handling device, preferably an industrial robot.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
the transfer of the piece goods into the shaping means takes place by sliding or dropping the
piece goods into the shaping means as a result of their own weight, the piece goods being
compressed within the shaping means along the axis of gravitational acceleration or this takes
5 place by means of a handling system, preferably an industrial robot.

25. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 21 to 24,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece goods are brought into shaping means, where the piece
goods are shaped and the shaping means are used as loading means with which the piece goods
are brought into the loading space.

26. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a plurality of parallel, juxtaposed piece good-filled loading means are provided in such a way that their total loading means width corresponds to the loading space width and in each case the length of the individual loading means corresponds to the length of the loading space and the plurality of loading means is introduced horizontally into the loading space until the entire loading means can be positioned within said loading space.

27. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein prior to the introduction of the plurality of loading means, there is a vertical orientation of said loading means with respect to a deposition surface located within the loading space.

28. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~one of the claims~~ claim 25 to 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the piece goods are separated from the loading means within the loading space for forming a horizontal layer of solely piece goods within the loading space.

29. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein separation takes place by the sliding of the piece goods from the loading means whilst the latter are moved out of the loading space.